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THE DECLARATION
OF HIS HIGHNESS
WILLIAM HENRY,
By the Grace of GOD, PRINCE of
ORANGE, &c.

W 2330
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Of the Reasons inducing him, to appear in Arms
for preserving of the Protestant Religion, and
for Restoring the Laws and Liberties of
the ancient Kingdom of Scotland.

It is both certain and evident to all men, that the publick Peace and Happi-
niness of any State or Kingdom, cannot be preserved, where the Laws, Li-
berties and Customs established by the lawful authority in it, are openly
transgressed and annulled: more especially where the alteration of *Religion*
is endeavoured, and that a *Religion* which is contrary to Law is introduced:
upon which those who are most immediately concerned in it,
are indispensible bound to endeavour to preserve and maintain the established Laws,
Liberties and Customs: and above all the *Religion* and worship of God, that is
established among them: and to take such an effectual care, that the Inhabitants
of the said State or Kingdom, may neither be deprived of their *Religion*, nor of
their Civil Rights, which is so much the more necessary, because the Greatness
and Security both of Kings, Royal Families and of all Subjects, are in Authority, as well
as the Happiness of their Subjects and People, depend in a most especial manner
upon the exact observation and maintenance of their Laws, Liberties and
Customs.

Upon these grounds it is, that We cannot any longer forbear to Declare that to
our great regret We see that those Counsellors, who have now the chief credit
with the King, have overturned the *Religion*, Laws and Liberties of this Kingdom,
and induced them, in all their actions to their Conscience, Liberties and Rights,
to Arbitrary Government, and not only by force and indirect ways,
but in an open and public manner, have introduced a new *Religion* and
And indeed the miserable effects of an Arbitrary Power, and of Evil Coun-
sellors are so Manifest in the deplorable State of the Kingdom of Scotland, that

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both our reason and conscience do prompt us to an abhorrence of them. For when we consider the sad condition that Nation, though always affectionate to the Royal Family, and governed for many Ages by Laws made by the authority of their Kings, and of the Estates of Parliament, and by common consent, is reduced to, by endeavours that have been used to change the constitution of the Monarchy regulate by Laws, into a Despotick or Arbitrary Power: which doth evidently appear not only by the actions of Evil Counsellours in power, but by the deliberate and express publick Declarations, bearing that the King is an absolute Monarch, to whom obedience ought to be given in all things, without reserve, thereby to make way to introduce what Religion they please, without so much as the necessity of the consent of the Nation by their Estates in Parliament. Whilst we consider and ponder these things, as we cannot but be touched with a tender sense of those miseries, so the giving such a remedy to them, as may be proper and may answer the expectation of all good men, and true Protestants, is the great thing which we propose to our selves in this undertaking: the Equity whereof will be justified to the world, if what hath been said at the instigation of those Evil Counsellours be further impartially weighed.

It is well known, that the Laws, Privileges and Rights of the Kingdom have been overturned to the great prejudice of King and people, whilst that all foundation of confidence and trust is removed. And it is no less known what have been the Arbitrary procedures of an encroaching Privy Council, for although by the Laws enacted by the authority of King and Parliament, it is expressly prohibited, that the Popish Religion should be professed, or Seminary Priests suffered within the Kingdom, or that the children of any Noblemen or Gentlemen should be sent abroad to be educated in Popish Colleges: yet have those Evil Counsellours intended or suffered our Noblemen to be taken from their relations, and to be sent abroad to be instructed in Jesuites Colleges, and have likewise caused Schools to be created under the conduct of Popish Priests, and that in the Capital City of the Kingdom.

In an open contempt of the known Laws of the Kingdom, Papists are put into places of highest Trust, both Civil and Military, and entrusted with all the Forts and garrisons. The rights and Privileges of the Royal Burghs, the third Estate of Parliament, having as many Deputies in it as all the Shires in the Kingdom, are altogether, and they intended to discharge of their Magistrats and Town-Officers, to the satisfaction of their Churches, established by Law and immemorial custom, and to be taken away by their Arbitrary power, without any Citation, Trial or Process.

And whereas no Nation whatsoever can subsist without the administration of good and impartial justice, upon which men's Lives and Liberties, their Honours and Estates depend, yet those Evil Counsellours have subverted these in an Arbitrary and Despotick power: having named our Judges, who by Law ought to continue during their life or their good behaviour, because they would not conform themselves to their Instructions, and put others in their places, who they believe should be more compliant, and that without any regard to their abilities: by which it evidently appears, that those Evil Counsellours design to render themselves the Arbitrary Masters of the Lives, Honours and Estates of the subjects, without being controlled by any rule or Law,

A DECLARATION

By the Injustice of the late Evil Councillours hath a most oppressive power been exercised in imposing Taxes and Duties upon whole Nations without any Law of Act of Parliament: in permitting Free quarters to the soldiers, although they had a sufficient Establishment for their pay, whereby the Kingdom was doubly burdened without any redress; in imprisoning Gentlemen without any, so much as alleged, Reason, forcing many to accuse and witness against themselves; imposing arbitrary fines, frightening and harrassing many parts of the Country with Intercommuning and Justice-Alia, making some incur forfeiture of life and fortune for the most general and harmless converse, even with their nearest Relations outlawed. And thus bringing a consanguinity upon a great part of the Kingdom, which when Outlawries and Intercommunings went out against multitudes upon the slenderest pretences, was involved so universally to that danger, that those Councillours themselves were so obnoxious, as to find it necessary to have Pardons and Indemnities, whilst the poor people were left to mercy; Impowering Officers and Soldiers to Act upon the subjects, living in quiet and full peace, the greatest Barbarities, in destroying them, by hanging, shooting and drowning them without any forme of Law, or respect to Age or Sex, not giving some of them time to pray to God for mercy: And this for no other reason, but because they would not answer or satisfy them in such questions as they proposed to them, without any warrant of Law, and against the Common Interest of Mankind, which frees all men from being obliged to discover their secret thoughts, besides a great many other Violences and Oppressions, to which that poor Nation hath been exposed without any hope of having an end put to them, or to have Relief from them.

And that the Arbitrary and Illegal proceedings of those Evil Councillours might be justified and supported, such a Declaration hath been procured by them, as strikes at the root of the Government, and overturns the most sacred Rights of it, in making all Parliaments unnecessary, and taking away all defence of Religion, Liberty and Property, by an assumed and asserted Absolute Power, to which Obedience is required without Reserve: which every good Christian is persuaded to be due to God Almighty alone, all whose Commandments are always just and good.

These Evil Councillours have used their utmost endeavours to abolish Penal Laws, excluding all who are not Protestants from Publick Trust, which give too great a check to their designs. For the accomplishing of this a Liberty hath been granted to Dissenters, but such a one, as that the continuance thereof is plainly intimated, to depend upon their hearty concurrence for Abolishing the above-mentioned Penal Laws, the only legal defence of their Religion; Although the Dissenters have just cause of distrust, when they call to mind how some hundreds of their ministers were driven out of their Churches without either accusation or citation: the filling of many of whose places with Ignorant and Stupid persons hath been one great occasion of all those Miseries which that Country for a long time hath Groaned under. And Dissenters have but small ground to rest upon, present ease founded upon a Proclamation, which may be recalled every hour, and which in the first and second Editions of it gave no relief to them, especially considering that not many months before, the greatest of the forementioned severities and barbarities had been exercised upon them.

But to crown all, there are great and violent Presumptions, inducing us to be-

HIS HIGHNESSES DECLARATION,

Here, that those Evil Councillours, in order to the carrying on of their ill designs; and to the gaining to themselves the more time for the Effecting of them, for the encouraging of their Complices, and for the discouraging of all Good Subjects, hath published that the *Queen* hath brought forth a *Son*: tho' there have appeared both during the *Queens* pretended Bigness, and in the manner in which the Birth was managed, so many just and visible grounds of suspicion, that not only We our selves, but all the good Subjects of those Kingdomes do vehemently suspect, that the pretended prince of *Wales* was not born by the *Queen*. And it is notoriously known to all the world, that many both doubted of the *Queens* Bigness, and of the Birth of the Child, and yet there was not any one thing done to satisfy them, or to put an end to their Doubts.

And since our Dearest and most Entirely beloved Consort, the Princess, and likewise We our selves, have so great an Interest in this Matter, and such a Right, as all the world knows, to the succession of these Kingdomes, which those Men have attempted to violate, for preventing of all redress of miseries, by the lawful Successors of the Crown, educated by the good providence of God, in the true Profession of the Protestant Religion, We cannot excuse our selves from espousing the true Interest of these Nations in matters of such high Consequence, and from contributing all that lies in us, for the defence of the Laws and Liberties thereof, the maintaining of the Protestant Religion in them, and the securing of the people in the enjoyment of all their just Rights.

But that our Intentions may be so manifest that no person may doubt or pretend to doubt thereof, to excuse themselves from concurring with us in this just Design for the Universal good of the Nation. We do declare that the freeing that Kingdom from all Hazard of Popery and Arbitrary power for the future, and the delivering it from what at the present doth expose it both, the settling of it by Parliament upon such a Basis as to its Religious, and Civil Concerns, as may most effectually redress all the abovementioned Grievances, are the true reasons of our present undertaking as to that Nation,

And therefore, We persuade our selves, that our Endeavours to give the best assistance we can for the Relief of so distressed a Kingdom, shall not only not be misconstructed, but shall also be accompanied with a cheerful and universal Concurrence of the whole Nation, that even those who have been Instruments for the enslaving of it, will now shew their dislike of what they have done, by their timely and reasonable Diligence for its Rescue; and that if any shall not give us that Assistance, which their Conscience to God, and their Respect to their Country oblige them to, they shall be justly charged with all the Evils that may be the effects of such a want of their duty.

And as we our selves desire to trust to the Almighty God alone for the success of our Arms, so we expect of all good men, that they will apply themselves most earnestly to Him for his blessing upon our endeavours, that so they may tend to the Glory of his Great Name, to the Establishment of the Reformed Churches; and to the Peace and Happiness of that Kingdom.

Given under our hand and Seal at our Court in the Hague, the tenth of October in the year of our Lord 1688.

WILLIAM HENRY PRINCE OF ORANGE.

By his Highnesses special command

C. HUYGENS.

To

To all Commanders of Ships, and
all Seamen that are now employ-
ed in the English Fleet.

Gentlemen and Friends,

Our Right Trusty and Well beloved Admiral Herbert is fully Instructed by Us: And therefore We expect that you will give an Entire credit, to every thing that he shall say to you in our Name: Wee have prepared a Declaration, containing the Reasons that Induce Us to undertake the Present Expedition, in which Wee have no other designe but the preservation of the Protestant Religion, and the restoring of the Lawes and Liberties of England. The total ruine of your Religion being as much designed by the Papists in England, as it is already accomplished in France; and it will as certainly be effected, if they are able to prevail at this time.

Wee can not beleave, but that you must be already sensible, that you are only made use of as Instruments, to bring both your selves and your Countrey under Popery and Slavery, by the means both of the Irish and the Forreigners, who are preparing to compleat your Destruction. And therefore we hope that God will put it in your hearts at this time, to Redeem your selves, your Countrey and your Religion from all those Miseries.

This in all humane appearance can only be done, by your coming now to assist Us, who are labouring for your Deliverance. And Wee do assure you that Wee will be ever mindful of the services that you shal now do Us: And Wee promise to you that We will place particular marks of our Favour on all those who will upon this Occasion deserve well of Us and of the Nation, Wee are with all sincerity Your truly well wishing and affectionate Friend.

Given at our Court at Dieten
the 29. day of September
1688.

WILLIAM H. PRINCE OF ORANGE.

By his Highnesse special command

C. HUYGENS.

To

To all the Officers and Souldiers in the English Army.

Gen'lemen and Friends,

WE have given so true and so full an account of our Intentions in this Expedition, in our Declaration, that as Wee can add nothing to it, so Wee are sure that you can desire nothing more of Us: Wee come to preserve your Religion, and to restore and establish your Liberties and Properties: and therefore Wee cannot suffer our selves to doubt, but that all Protestants and true Englishmen will come and concurre with us in our designe, to secure these Nations from Popery and Slavery. You must all see plainly, that you are made use of only as Instruments, to enslave the Nation, and to ruine the Protestant Religion: and when that is done you may judge what you your selves ought to expect, both by the cashiering of all the Protestant and English Officers and Souldiers in Ireland, and by the Irish Souldiers that are brought over to be put in your places, of which you have seen so fresh an Instance, that wee need not put you in mind of it. You know how many of your Fellow Officers have been used, only for their Standing firm to the Protestant Religion and to the Lawes of England: and you cannot flatter your selves so farre, as to expect to be better used. If those who have broke their word so oft, should by your means be brought out of the straits, to which they are reduced at present,

Wee hope likewise, that you will not suffer your selves to be abused by a false notion of Honour: but that you will in the first place consider, what you owe to Almighty God, and your Religion, to your Country, to your selves and to your Posterity: which you as men of Honour ought to prefer to all Private Considerations and Engagements whatsoever. Wee doe therefore expect, that you will consider the Honour that is now set before you, of being the Instruments of saving your Country, and of securing your Religion. Wee will ever remember the services that you shal do upon this occasion: and Wee promise to you, that Wee will place such particular marks of our Favour on every one of you, as your behaviour at this time shall deserve of us, and of the Nation, in which Wee will make a great distinction of those, that shall come seasonably to joyn their Armes with Ours. And you shall ever find us to be Your Well Wishing and assured Friend,

WILLIAM HENRY, PRINCE OF ORANGE.

By his Highnesses speciall command

C: HUYGENS.

A Prayer

A Prayer for the present Expedition.

Almighty God, the Lord of Hosts, and the Aid and Refuge of all that trust in Thee, We humbly pray thee, to bless and prosper this Undertaking, for the glory of thy Name, and for the good of thy People: Let not our sins provoke thee, to deny thy blessing to thy Servant the Prince, compass him with thy favour as with a Shield: Direct him in all his Counsels, and be thou ever present with him, and assisting to him in all his Actions: that so he may be Successful in this great Design: and that he may Imploy all the power, that thou puts in his hands, to the honour of thy Great Name, to the establishing and advancing of thy true Religion, and to the procuring of the Peace and Happinesse of these Nations: Bless both the Army and Fleet under his Command, with Success and Victory. And grant, O gracious God, that all of us may be turning to thee, with our whole hearts; Repenting us truly of all our past sins, and solemnly vowing to thee, as we now do, that we will

will in all time coming, amend our Lives, and
endeavour to carry our selves as becomes Reform
Christians. And that we will shew our Zeal
for our holy Religion, by living in all things suitable
to it. Hear us, Holy Father, and let thy Angels
to encamp round about us, for we put our whole
trust in thy Protection and Defence, which we
humbly pray thee to grant us, for the sake of Jesus
Christ our only Saviour and Redeemer.

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